UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1991/5
19 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second regular session of 1991

POPULATION QUESTIONS

Preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/91 and decisions 1987/174 and 1990/262. The report presents the objectives of the international meeting on population in 1994; the issues to be discussed; the nature of the preparatory work, including the convening of expert group meetings and regional population conferences; the assignment of responsibilities for the preparatory activities, including the setting up of a steering committee and an inter-agency task force; the role of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and the financial implications of the preparatory activities and the 1994 meeting itself. The views of the Population Commission on the proposals contained in the present document are available to the Council in the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

91-03987 2138h (E)

/...

READEX
FICHE

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION		1 - 2	4
I.	OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING	3 - 5	4
II.	ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED	6 - 40	6
	A. Population, environment and development	9 - 13	6
	B. Changing population growth and structures	14 - 21	7
	C. Population redistribution	22 - 25	9
	D. International migration	26 - 32	10
	E. Women and population	33 - 36	11
	F. Population policies and programmes	37 - 40	13
III.	NATURE OF THE PREPARATORY WORK	41 - 52	14
	A. Expert group meetings	43 - 46	14
	B. Regional population conferences	47	16
	C. Other major inputs	48 - 52	16
IV.	ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	53 - 66	17
	A. Secretariat for the meeting	53 - 58	17
	B. Steering Committee	59 - 60	18
	C. Inter-agency co-ordination	61	19
	D. Participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	62 - 63	19
	E. Media coverage and information activities	64 - 65	20
	F. Calendar of major activities	66	20
V.	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	67 - 75	21
	A. Expert group meetings	68 - 69	21
	B. Participation in regional population conferences	70	22

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
C. Secretariat support	71 - 72	22
D. Information activities	73	22
E. Meeting costs	74	22
F. Summary	75	23

INTRODUCTION

1. In response to Economic and Social Council decision 1987/174, the Secretary-General submitted to the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session a report (E/CN.9/1989/3) on the possibility of holding an intergovernmental conference on population in 1994. The report contained five options for the Commission's consideration: an intergovernmental conference, a special session of the General Assembly, a special session of the Economic and Social Council, a special session of the Population Commission and a joint session of the Population Commission and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1989, decided "in principle, to convene in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population" and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, through the Population Commission, a report on the state of the preparations for the meeting (Council resolution 1989/91, paras. 1 and 6).

2. The meeting in 1994 will be the fifth international population conference convened by the United Nations. It should be noted, however, that the population conferences held in Rome in 1954 1/ and at Belgrade in 1965 2/ were purely technical meetings, limited to scientific discussions on population topics. In contrast, the two subsequent conferences, held at Bucharest in 1974 3/ and Mexico City in 1984 4/ were intergovernmental meetings for the purpose of discussing policy issues, establishing objectives and principles, setting goals and making recommendations for action in the area of population.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

3. Fifteen years after the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action at Bucharest and five years after the adoption of the recommendations for the further implementation of the Plan made by the International Conference on Population at Mexico City, the Economic and Social Council, subsequent to the third review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the Plan, concluded that "the Plan and the recommendations for its further implementation continue to provide a policy framework for carrying out population activities at the national, regional and global levels" (Council resolution 1989/92, annex). At the same time, the Council observed that "a number of issues remain unresolved and others have emerged only recently", and expressed its concern about the need to reinforce previous recommendations that urgently call for new action.

4. The international meeting on population in 1994 is to be convened by the Council for the purpose of achieving the following four specific objectives:

(a) To assess the progress made and identify the obstacles encountered in fulfilling the objectives, goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action and the recommendations for further implementation of the Plan. This first objective responds to the requirement that the Plan has to be reviewed and appraised every five years; 5/

(b) To maintain and strengthen the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda. This objective is of particular importance because progress in achieving the goals set forth in the Plan of Action in some regions may distract attention from the very serious lack of progress and increasing difficulties in other regions. In addition, as population issues evolve and new problems emerge, the urgency of creating awareness and better understanding increases greatly as a necessary step towards more effective policy formulation. Similarly, other issues on the international agenda to which population is closely and significantly related, such as progress in social and economic development, the status of women and, especially, the environment, also continue to evolve; hence, it is essential to review and appraise efforts in the field of population in the larger context of related issues so that population activities can make the most effective possible contribution to work on those other issues. A proper response to those issues would be greatly advanced by a reaffirmation of political commitment to population policies and programmes;

(c) To provide guidance at the global, regional and national levels on the treatment of population issues of the highest priority for the next decade. The results of the recent monitoring of population trends and policies, 6/ and of population programmes, 7/ the results of the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan, 8/ the conclusions of a review and assessment of the status of population programmes around the world (A/44/432, annex) and the subsequent International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century 9/ permit the identification of a series of population issues that have emerged recently or that call for renewed attention owing to their increased relevance or to lack of adequate attention in the past. The issues to be discussed at the meeting are set out in section II below;

(d) To adopt a consolidated updated set of recommendations. This fourth objective addresses the issue of the proper treatment of an accumulating number of recommendations that have been adopted as a result of past reviews and appraisals of the Plan. Since the Plan's adoption and as a consequence of the reviews and appraisals of the Plan, the Council has formulated or endorsed a series of recommendations for the further implementation of the Plan: 16 in 1979, based on the first review and appraisal; 10/ 88 in 1984, based on the second review and appraisal and adopted by the International Conference on Population of 1984; 11/ and 13 in 1989, which emanated from the third review and appraisal. 8/ Some recommendations for action have been achieved and others have lost some of their relevance because the issues they addressed have changed or because new recommendations have been adopted that respond more effectively to the same issues.

5. It is important to note that the Plan adopted at Bucharest in 1974 had two major elements in addition to the recommendations: (a) a background statement setting forth the issues that motivated the international community to adopt the Plan and (b) principles and objectives. Those three elements have different characteristics. The principles and objectives have been recognized and reaffirmed to have maintained their full validity and continue to guide action in the area of population. However, population issues are dynamic and the recommendations for action to respond effectively to them must have the same dynamism. It is therefore appropriate to perceive the Plan as composed of structural elements that

endure through time and provide continuity (principles and objectives) accompanied by corresponding suggested remedies (recommendations) that evolve over time.

II. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

6. The report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session (E/CN.9/1989/3), identified a set of 16 issues, of which 7 were considered "new" and 9 "unresolved or evolving". The report of the Secretary-General on the results of the third review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1989/2), also submitted to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session, identified 31 issues. More recently, the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, convened at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in November 1989, identified a number of issues and proposed a series of population objectives and programme priorities. 12/

7. The basic theme of the 1994 meeting is the seriousness, complexity and growing urgency of population issues in the next decade. Population issues as such have been on the agenda of the international community at least since the time of the World Population Conference in 1974, and were reviewed and appraised in depth by the International Conference on Population in 1984. A substantial majority of Governments in the world take steps to influence demographic trends. However, in a rapidly changing world, population issues themselves are evolving. They continue to call for attention at a high level and for the necessary resources in order to ensure that population concerns are integrated into policies, priorities and programmes for social and economic development, for protection of the environment and for enhancement of the status of women.

8. In order to focus the work of the meeting on issues of the highest priority, six overarching topics have been identified and are proposed for consideration. Each of the six embraces a number of aspects of those high-priority issues.

A. Population, environment and development

9. The impact of economic activity and population growth on the environment is considered one of the major crises facing the world today. In recent years, the centrality of the environmental issue on the international agenda has been reinforced, particularly in General Assembly resolution 42/186, by which the Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and in various global reports on the environment, including the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled "Our common future" (A/42/427, annex).

10. In contrast to earlier views, many of which have considered economic growth as simply detrimental to the environment, it is now widely acknowledged that problems of poverty and underdevelopment and related environmental issues cannot be solved without vigorous economic growth. Yet economic growth based on rapid resource depletion, pollution and environmental degradation is neither ecologically nor economically sound. Sound development allows people to meet their present needs

without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their basic needs. It requires changes in current patterns of economic growth in order to make them less resource- and energy-intensive, less polluting and environmentally hazardous and more equitable. The nature, dimensions and implications of those changes constitute a major challenge facing the international community.

11. It is estimated that the developed countries are responsible for about three fourths of the world's resource consumption, chlorofluorocarbon emissions and toxic waste production. However, the industries that are the most heavily reliant on natural resources and the most heavily polluting are growing the most rapidly in the developing world, where as a result of poverty and widespread discontent, there is more urgency for industrial growth and less capacity to minimize its damaging side effects. Many developing regions, for example, are forced into unsustainable practices, such as burning and cutting down forests, overusing or misusing farmland and polluting and exhausting water supplies, in order to meet the increasing basic demand for food, fuel and shelter of their rapidly growing populations. Rapid growth of mega-cities that rely primarily on fossil fuels contribute substantially to pollution. Frequently, those most adversely affected by environmental degradation are the poor, the less educated and the most vulnerable.

12. While environmental stress and degradation, such as pollution, toxic and hazardous wastes, global warming and resource depletion, are strongly influenced by the nature and application of technologies, it is recognized that population growth and its size, structure and geographical distribution contribute significantly to those problems.

13. The formulation and implementation of policies aimed at addressing the various diverse dimensions of the environmental crisis effectively are of vital and growing concern to the international community. In the achievement of that aim, the refinement and expansion of the existing knowledge base and a greater understanding of the complex interrelationships among population, resources, environment and development remain important objectives. A crucial issue on the international agenda remains the need to further refine policies and actions to assure "the achievement over time of such a balance between population and environmental capacities as would make possible sustainable development, keeping in view the links between population levels, consumption patterns, poverty and the natural resource base" (General Assembly resolution 42/186, para. 4 (a)).

B. Changing population growth and structures

14. Having peaked at an annual rate of 2.1 per cent during the late 1960s, the population growth rate of the world is now estimated to be stationary for the time being at 1.7 per cent. Behind this global transition to slower population growth, which is projected to produce a world population of 6.3 billion by the year 2000, the absolute annual addition of population is large and still increasing - from an estimated 93 million a year in 1990 to about 98 million a year during the later 1990s; and the existing wide regional and subregional variation in fertility and mortality rates continues to be of concern to the international community. This continuing demographic evolution must be carefully reviewed and appraised by the international community to determine precisely which items require reformulation

among the understandings reached and the recommendations for action and implementation in the World Population Plan of Action, as well as among the recommendations for the Plan's further implementation made in 1984.

15. Among the major regions, the sustained rapid growth rate of the African population, currently 3.1 per cent a year, is an issue calling for special attention. This high rate of population increase is of particular concern given that Africa continues to lag significantly behind other developing regions, as shown by various indicators of development, such as education, employment, poverty, infant and child mortality, health and nutrition. It is estimated, for example, that approximately one third of the African population lives in a least developed country, of which there are 28 in the continent.

16. Whereas the population of the African continent was less than 300 million 30 years ago, it is now estimated to be 642 million and is projected to be close to 1.5 billion 30 years hence. While mortality has declined, African levels are still high, especially when compared to other developing regions. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is spreading in Africa and in other developed and developing countries with, as yet very imperfectly known but ominous demographic consequences. Fertility levels have also remained exceptionally high. Contraceptive prevalence remains significantly lower in sub-Saharan Africa than elsewhere - with less than 6 per cent of married women of reproductive age using a modern method in many of its countries. The annual rates of growth are projected to decline slowly during the next quarter century, reflecting anticipated declines in fertility and, to a lesser extent, mortality. However, the net annual population increments in the African continent are projected to increase significantly well into the twenty-first century.

17. In contrast to the rapid growth rate for Africa, the growth rates for Asia and Latin America - with the notable exceptions of Southern and Western Asia - are in transition. Although there are exceptions, mortality rates have declined markedly. For example, over the past 40 years, life expectancy at birth increased from 42 to 63 years in Asia and from 52 to 67 years in Latin America. In both regions, however, there are still countries where life expectancies at birth are below 55 years. Except for certain subregions, such as Western Asia, fertility levels have also declined markedly in both continents. Contraceptive prevalence for all methods has reached 49 per cent for the developing countries in Asia and 56 per cent in Latin America. Nevertheless, the annual number of births is continuing to grow because of the increasing number of couples entering the prime reproductive years. The population of Asia three decades from now, for example, is projected to be equivalent to the world's current population of 5.3 billion.

18. For the developing regions as a whole, there remain great unmet needs in the area of population, despite impressive steps towards the achievement of a full demographic transition in many developing countries. Mortality risks remain unacceptably high for far too many people in the developing regions. For a fertility transition no greater than that projected by the United Nations medium variant, the number of married women of reproductive ages using contraception will have to increase by 50 per cent from 1987 to the year 2000 and will have to more than double by the year 2010. Levels of contraceptive use are already high in the developed regions and so almost all of the increased numbers will have to be found

in the developing regions. For too many individuals and couples in the developing and in some developed regions, the basic human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children remains no more than an unrealized ideal. The international meeting on population in 1994 will provide the international community with a forum in which it can formulate an updated set of recommendations to deal with those factors of population growth in the developing world.

19. Generally speaking, the transition to low rates of mortality and fertility have been achieved throughout the more developed regions. Life expectancy at birth, for example, is currently estimated at 78 years for women and 71 for men in those regions. As a result of low fertility rates, the average growth rate for the more developed regions is 0.5 per cent a year and for certain subregions the growth rates are hovering close to zero or are even negative. In Europe, for example, 17 countries have estimated annual growth rates below 0.25 per cent and 8 have growth rates of zero or less.

20. A major consequence of those low rates is the aging of the populations. The proportion above 65 years, for instance, has jumped from around 8 per cent in 1960 to its current level of 12 per cent; by 2025, the proportion is expected to reach 19 per cent;

21. Another important trend, which is related to the low rates of fertility and mortality and the spread of urbanization, is the profound changes that are taking place in family and household structures. Although occurring world wide, those changes have been especially notable among the more developed regions. Families and households are significantly smaller, more numerous and older than in previous decades. In addition, the proportions of female-headed households have increased markedly during the recent past. An important consequence of those changes, which is increasingly being observed in both developed and developing regions, is that demands are growing for additional public services and support that would better enable parents, especially mothers, to reconcile parental, household and work responsibilities.

C. Population redistribution

22. The changing distribution and size of the world's rural and urban populations constitute one of the most important demographic issues confronting the international community. Throughout history, the majority of the world's population lived in rural areas. At present, it is estimated that 57 per cent of the world's population, or 3 billion persons, reside in rural areas. Shortly after the turn of the century, however, an important milestone will be passed: the majority of the world's population will be urban dwellers.

23. The virtually universal increase in the proportion of population living in an urban area is the result of both rural-urban migration and natural increase of the urban population, which is often higher than that of the rural population. Increase of the urban population is especially pronounced in the developing world: it has increased nearly fivefold since 1950; by the year 2025, it is expected to be close to three times its current size. The increases in the urban population of

some regions are even more marked. For example, during the past 40 years the urban population in Africa has increased sevenfold; and 30 years from now, the number of Africans residing in urban areas is projected to increase an additional fourfold.

24. In addition to the rapid growth of urban populations, a related significant phenomenon is the rapid growth of very large cities, sometimes referred to as megalopolises or mega-cities. For example, the number of cities with a population of 2 million or more grew from 62 in 1970 to 100 in 1985. Those cities account for 10 per cent of the world's total population and nearly a quarter of the world's urban population. Furthermore, the majority of those cities (60 per cent) are located in less developed regions. The management and provision of public services in the large urban agglomerations constitutes one of the most critical issues facing planners, policy makers and administrators.

25. Despite the continuing flows to urban areas, the populations residing in rural areas are estimated to be growing currently at an average annual rate of 1.2 per cent. That rate, however, is expected to decline sharply in the coming years. After 20 years, for example, the annual growth rate of the world's rural population is projected to be near 0.2 per cent. Again, considerable diversity exists among the major regions. In Latin America, for example, the growth of the rural population virtually halted after 1980; the size of its rural population (124 million in 1990) is projected to remain close to the same level until the end of the century. In contrast, the current annual growth rates of the rural populations in Africa and Asia are 2.0 and 1.2 per cent, respectively. Although those rates are also expected to decline during the 1990s, owing to migration and declining rates of natural increase, in the year 2000 the rural areas will continue to account for a fairly large majority of the populations of Africa and Asia, 59 and 65 per cent, respectively. Thus, the persistant demographic, social and economic problems of the rural areas of the developing countries will continue to be added the escalating difficulties of dealing with rapid urban and megalopolitan growth.

D. International migration

26. Recent years have witnessed sharp increases in the numbers of international migrants and marked changes in the social and economic causes and consequences of the flows. Unlike the situation a decade or more ago, there are by now very few countries or regions that are not touched to some extent by international migration.

27. One major focus of concern continues to be the large-scale net movement from poorer to richer countries of persons seeking employment and their dependants. While the actual number of people moving in such flows has tended to stabilize during recent years, the social, economic and demographic consequences of the earlier migration remain a matter of great international concern. What has come to be referred to as the "problem of the second generation" (and by now effectively of a third generation) in the countries of destination, and the consequences of fluctuating remittances, abrupt return flows, shortages of skills, family disruption and other effects in countries of origin, remain high on the agenda of issues confronting the international community.

28. One important example has been the movement of workers and their dependants into Europe, especially from Africa and Asia. This particular case increases in complexity as steps are taken towards the organization of a European common market. Even more recently, the complexity of the issues has been compounded by the profound social, economic and political changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The ramifications of all of those changes for the migrant stocks and for future flows will continue to be a matter of urgent concern for the international community.

29. Another important labour migration flow calling for urgent attention is that of foreign workers and dependants in the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf region. The conflict between Iraq and Kuwait has already had and will without doubt continue to have a heavy impact on the migrants in the region and on future flows, with important social and economic consequences - mostly negative - for both the countries of origin and destination.

30. Labour migration flows in other regions of the world are also important, even where they do not appear as a crisis at the present time. For all regions concerned, the international meeting on population should be able to provide guidance on how best to approach that issue in the context of population policies and programmes in general.

31. Another aspect of international migration that calls for the attention of the international community and that has been neglected in the past is its impact on women. In both research and policy formulation, there has been a tendency to treat international migration as gender-neutral or to focus on men as those with the greatest involvement. However, there is increasing evidence of the importance of international migration in the lives of women, as primary migrants themselves, as dependants in migrant families and as non-migrants. Women constitute nearly half of all international migrants world wide and, as migrants and as women, are often subject to overt or covert discrimination.

32. Finally, the recent surge in the number of refugees in the world calls for attention as a demographic, humanitarian and human rights issue. During the 1980s, the global refugee population grew by nearly 75 per cent; by 1989 it had amounted to some 17 million persons, 87 per cent of whom had found asylum in a developing country. At the same time, many host countries report that they are finding it difficult to meet the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. Some countries of destination aver that rising numbers of persons are claiming refugee status who are, in their view, economically motivated migrants. Consequently, reports of forced repatriation of asylum-seekers are becoming more frequent . It is clear that new attention must be given to the refugee issue, taking fully into account the larger population context.

E. Women and population

33. During the twentieth century one of the most significant societal changes has been the movement towards achieving equality between men and women. The achievement of equality between the sexes was set as a world-wide goal in 1975 and reaffirmed by numerous international instruments, including the 1985 Nairobi

Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 13/ and, significantly, in the recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action made by the International Conference on Population in 1984. During the past several decades, improvements in the role and status of women have moved beyond humanitarian considerations alone and have become increasingly recognized also as critical factors for demographic change and socio-economic development. For example, in the Amsterdam Declaration, adopted by the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, 12/ the centrality of women in the development process and the beneficial consequences of improvements in the status of women on demographic behaviour were stressed.

34. Although past research has found that the condition of women is closely correlated with various indicators of societal well-being, a number of key issues continue to call for the special attention of the international community. One issue that remains only very imperfectly understood is the complex of interrelationships between women's education, family status, employment and fertility. In both the more developed and less developed regions, the role and status of women is influenced greatly by improvements in literacy and higher levels of educational attainment. Enhancing their educational level will lead to greater opportunities for women to participate in non-traditional sectors of employment, to greater freedom and informal choice in matters of child-bearing and family planning and to appropriate roles in the family. As development alters the structure of employment, the greater participation of women within the formal labour force is an essential adjustment factor for the economy as well as the family. The linkages between education and human reproduction are also strong. Low female education, for example, is commonly associated with early pregnancies and a large number of births, which tend to be poorly spaced; and, conversely, early pregnancy contributes to a high incidence of school drop-outs. In the developing world, it is estimated that half of the adult women cannot read and approximately one out of every three girls does not receive primary education; and even among developed countries, one out of every 10 girls does not receive secondary education.

35. The status of women in relation to infant, child and maternal mortality is another critical issue deserving special consideration. Despite the impressive achievements in mortality reduction in many areas of the world, unacceptably high levels of mortality continue to exist among infants, young children and mothers. Each year, approximately 14 million children below the age of five die. In some regions, there is disturbing evidence of excessive mortality among female infants and girls. Maternal mortality accounts for a quarter of all deaths among women aged 15 to 49 in the developing world. It is estimated that half a million women die every year from complications caused by pregnancy and childbirth. Improvements in the status of women in the areas of education, health and family planning, especially when they are pursued together, would help to reduce those deaths significantly.

36. The subject of women and migration has been until recently a relatively neglected area of concern. The internal and, as noted above, international migration of women are significant demographic processes with important social and economic consequences. Among developed countries and in Latin America, for example, there has long been a tendency for female rural-to-urban migrants to

outnumber their male counterparts. In Africa and Asia, male migrants were relatively more numerous in the past; however, recent studies indicate that increasing numbers of young women are joining the migration flows to the cities, where many of them go on their own to find work in the service, manufacturing and informal sectors. Although statistical data are limited, recent studies suggest that in most instances migrant women prove to be active agents of change and adaptation, rather than passive victims of circumstances. In general, the increasingly active participation of women in migration flows will almost certainly have further significant demographic as well as social and economic consequences that raise policy and programme issues of concern to the international community.

F. Population policies and programmes

37. During recent years, the world has witnessed a far-reaching and nearly global reconsideration of the proper role of Government in the conduct of the social and economic lives of countries. Inevitably, a reconsideration of policies that affect population is involved. The close interrelationship of population with other social and economic variables and the recognition that population policies are constituent elements of socio-economic development policies have been underlying principles of the international community's approach to population since at least the time of the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action in 1974. While the precise nature of the impact of the broader debate on the role of government in the formulation and implementation of population policies is not yet clear, that it will have a lasting impact would appear to be beyond serious doubt. The international meeting on population in 1994 will provide an appropriate and timely forum for a thorough appraisal of the way in which the field of population will be affected and can most effectively be dealt with in the context of that overall reconsideration.

38. Concern for human rights must be central to any formulation of population policy. Increased examination of human rights issues in population would be useful for both population and human rights specialists. As population dynamics continue to evolve, in some very important cases into historically unprecedented demographic conditions, new issues of human rights and responsibilities emerge. Thus, the meeting might wish to consider the adaptation of human rights to respond to new and emerging population challenges, at the same time that increased support may be given to the wider exercise of existing rights.

39. Another policy and programme issue that the international meeting on population must address is the growing recognition that the resources needed for activities in the field of population, at the national and international levels, are woefully inadequate for the years ahead. Around the time of the meeting, the global population is expected to be growing by just over 97 million persons a year - nearly 5 per cent greater than the current 93 million a year - and still increasing. As estimated in the Amsterdam Declaration, by the year 2000 the minimal annual costs to sustain a balanced, comprehensive population programme will be of the order of $9 billion. In the late 1980s, total national and international expenditure for family planning and other major population activities in the developing countries amounted to about $4.5 billion a year. Thus, how to mobilize

national and international resources to reach a level of $9 billion by the year 2000 is a serious challenge confronting the international community.

40. Future needs will not be for material resources alone, crucial though they may be. Global demographic targets will have to be revised. Better co-ordination among sectors and organizations involved in population and the more complete integration of population into all aspects of development planning remain urgent concerns for the international community. As population programmes reach out to previously underserved communities and cultures, expand their efforts on behalf of women and girls and co-ordinate more effectively with programmes focused on environmental issues, many new operational and managerial challenges will have to be met. The need for innovative policies will almost certainly become greater during the years ahead. Population policies and programmes have demonstrated that they can be effective in helping countries meet their population targets. Nevertheless, there is a real possibility that the needs and challenges ahead will not be met if attention, material resources and innovative policies are insufficient. The international meeting on population should afford an ideal forum for the international community to confront those needs and challenges.

III. NATURE OF THE PREPARATORY WORK

41. For the international meeting on population to achieve its goals, a series of carefully planned preparatory activities are required. Arrangements will be made to ensure that the regional commissions, specialized agencies, other bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations will make a full substantive contribution within their own areas of expertise and competence.

42. It is suggested that the meeting in 1994 have a limited number of documents consisting of (a) an annotated agenda and provisional rules of procedure, (b) a report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action, (c) recommendations for the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action in the decade 1994-2004 and (d) for information, the views of the regional commissions on the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level for the decade 1994-2004.

A. Expert group meetings

43. The Secretary-General proposes to convene a small number of expert group meetings as part of the preparatory work, in order to ensure that the issues to be considered at the 1994 meeting have the proper substantive focus and to provide an adequate scientific basis for the formulation of recommendations.

44. The expert group meetings are planned to cover the selected list of issues identified as having high priority in the preceding section. Those issues can be clustered into six major groups as follows:

(a) Population, environment and development. Although the implications for social and economic development, the alleviation of poverty and concern for the environment will underlie the discussions of all of the various specific issues,

this cluster is focused on some of the most important technical aspects of the interrelationships among the three variables;

(b) Population growth and demographic structural change. This cluster deals with population growth trends and their social and economic implications, and embraces the following issues: sustained population growth in Africa; the transition of population growth rates in Asia and Latin America; slow or negative population growth in developed countries; population aging; and changes in family and household structures;

(c) Population redistribution. This cluster includes issues associated with the process of urbanization and its implications, the rapid growth of large cities (or mega-cities), rural population growth and internal population redistribution;

(d) International migration. This cluster incorporates the demographic and socio-economic disparities associated with international migration and highlights the causes and consequences of the South-to-North and other major migration streams, the international migration of women and issues related to refugees;

(e) Women and population. This cluster deals with the multiple linkages between women's status/roles and population dynamics. Especially important in this context are three particular interrelationships: (i) education, family status, employment and fertility; (ii) women and internal migration; and (iii) women's status and infant, child and maternal mortality differentials;

(f) Population policies and programmes. This final cluster concentrates on the implications of the changing political environment for population policies and programmes, human rights and population policies, continuing needs for family planning programmes; the increasing need for financial, personnel and other resources; the need for the integration of population considerations into all aspects of development planning and policies; and other programmatic issues at national and international levels.

45. It is envisaged that each cluster will be dealt with by one expert group. Each expert group, which will consist of 12 to 15 internationally distinguished individual experts to be invited in their personal capacity, representatives of units of the United Nations Secretariat concerned, regional commissions, specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, will meet from four to five working days. In selecting the individual experts, the Secretary-General will ensure that women experts are included, that a full range of relevant scientific disciplines are covered and that the principle of equitable geographical distribution is taken into account. In the preparation of the background papers and other documents for the expert group meetings, the Secretary-General will utilize existing staff to the fullest extent possible, supplemented by consultancies, where needed. The corresponding estimated cost is set out in section V below.

46. For each expert group meeting, the Secretariat for the meeting will prepare a background document that will be issue-oriented and contain an initial assessment of the level of implementation of the Plan of Action in the light of the existing knowledge on each issue. Each expert group meeting will produce a final report

that will include conclusions and recommendations. A summary report of each expert group meeting will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the meeting. It is also anticipated that the proceedings of each expert group meeting, consisting of the background document, selected papers and the final report, will be issued in time for the 1994 meeting.

B. Regional population conferences

47. In resolution 1989/91, the Economic and Social Council requested the Population Commission to consider and make recommendations on the possibility of holding regional intergovernmental meetings as part of the preparatory work for the 1994 meeting. It should be noted that as part of their regular programme of work, the United Nations regional commissions, particularly the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), organize, approximately every 10 years, a regional population conference to discuss the population issues of their respective regions, to review the progress made in the region in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and of their respective plans and programmes and to identify priority areas for future action. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ESCAP and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) have adopted regional population strategies. The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be held in late summer of 1992; it is anticipated that other regional population conferences will be convened between mid-1992 and 1993 to assess those strategies. In addition, other regional population meetings may be convened to discuss specific regional population issues. Those regional meetings will be invited to contribute to the preparatory activities of the 1994 meeting by highlighting in their agendas the review of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action at the regional level. The results of the various regional conferences will be made available to the Preparatory Committee meeting in 1994 and to the international meeting on population itself.

C. Other major inputs

48. In addition to the expert group meetings and the regional population conferences, there are other important activities that would offer valuable information and guidance for the preparation of the documentation for the 1994 meeting.

49. The World Population Plan of Action stipulates that the monitoring of population trends and policies should be undertaken as a specialized activity of the United Nations system. Since 1977, the Secretary-General has produced biennially reports of the monitoring exercise. The 1984 Conference recommended that the Secretary-General also prepare on a regular basis a report on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance. The reports of recent rounds of the monitoring exercises will provide valuable information on the full range of issues to be brought before the international meeting on population.

50. Since 1963, the United Nations has conducted the periodic Population Inquiries among Governments to collect information about their perceptions, policies and

programmes in the area of population. The results of earlier rounds of those Inquiries were important inputs for the 1974 and 1984 Conferences. The most recent one, the Sixth Inquiry, was conducted in 1987 and a seventh round is scheduled to be carried out during the biennium 1992-1993. In addition to the Inquiry, the United Nations maintains a computerized population policy data bank, which can provide useful inputs. Finally, the biennially revised estimates and projections of population for all countries and regions and the findings from a wide range of research projects on population topics of particular concern will be fully utilized in the preparatory process.

51. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in co-operation with the Government of the Netherlands, convened the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century at Amsterdam in November 1989 to discuss population issues in the context of the findings of the Fund's review and assessment of accumulated experience in population. The Forum identified a set of priority areas and made a substantial number of proposals. The discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Forum are another important source for the preparatory work for the meeting.

52. As part of their regular programme of work, some units and organizations of the United Nations system have convened or are planning to convene important meetings of a rather specific character which would also provide rich sources of information. Such meetings include expert group meetings on women and international migration (March 1990), aging (October 1990), mega-cities (October 1990), estimates of contraceptive commodity needs (February 1991) and women and internal migration (November 1991). The conclusions of other important activities in the broader social and economic fields, such as the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (August 1990), the formulation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) will also provide important inputs.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Secretariat for the meeting

53. On the recommendation of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Secretary-General appointed the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to serve as the Secretary-General of the 1994 meeting and the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs as the Deputy Secretary-General.

54. The following proposed arrangements for the preparation of the meeting are based on the need for maximum economy, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/91. The substantive preparations for the meeting to be carried out by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will be undertaken within existing resources. The Secretary-General will ensure a significant contribution from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to the preparations for the meeting, and will also request the substantive participation of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system.

55. In consultation with UNFPA, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs will be responsible for co-ordinating the substantive aspects of the preparations for the meeting, including the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the formulation of draft recommendations. It is estimated that approximately 100 Professional and 50 General Service work-months will be made available from the regular programme of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to participate in the preparatory activities during the next quinquennium.

56. In consultation with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, UNFPA will be responsible for co-ordinating the overall organizational preparations for the meeting, including the search for financial resources, the preparation of public information and communication activities the promotion of regional and national preparatory activities, and the maintenance of close relationships with national Governments. UNFPA will provide programme-related substantive information to help ensure the operational orientation of the meeting.

57. No separate secretariat will be established for the organization of the meeting, but in order to co-ordinate the substantive preparatory activities, 48 work-months at the Professional level and 48 work-months at support-staff level will be required by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The work will involve the substantive co-ordination of the preparatory activities of the expert groups and the 1994 meeting itself, the co-ordination of the contributions from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the co-ordination of reports for the Preparatory Committee. Two Professional and two administrative-support staff will be required by UNFPA for the organizational and financial aspects and for the information dissemination activities carried out in co-operation with the Department of Public Information.

58. The Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services of the United Nations Secretariat, acting as secretariat of the meeting, will provide technical secretariat services for the preparatory activities and during the 1994 meeting. It will be responsible for ensuring that the meeting and its preparatory activities are properly organized, particularly in terms of schedules and documentation, and will have the logistical duties of running the meeting in 1994.

B. Steering Committee

59. In accordance with established procedures for United Nations conferences dealing with economic and social matters (General Assembly resolution 37/14 B), the Director-General for Development and International Co-operation is entrusted with the task of establishing a steering committee for the purpose of providing guidance on major policy issues affecting the substantial direction of conference preparations and, in particular, to ensure conformity of the preparatory work with the general strategies and priorities established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the sbustantive co-ordination of such work with related activities undertaken within the United Nations system.

60. As a follow-up to the discussions of the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session on the international meeting on population, the Director-General convened a meeting of the Steering Committee to discuss the preparations for the 1994 meeting. The Committee has a core membership consisting of the heads of the departments and units concerned (the Director-General, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and UNFPA) and may be expanded to include other appropriate units (e.g., the Departments of Conference Services, Public Information and Administration and Management, the Office of Legal Affairs, the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services). It is anticipated that the Steering Committee will meet periodically to review the status of the preparatory work so that all the secretariat entities concerned will be fully informed and can plan for the requests that will be made for their services.

C. Inter-agency co-ordination

61. The Secretary-General has proposed to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination the establishment of an inter-agency task force to ensure that the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system participate in and make a substantive contribution to the 1994 meeting and its preparatory activities. It is anticipated that the task force will meet at least once a year.

D. Participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

62. For the 1974 and 1984 Conferences, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated extensively in the preparatory activities; many of them were invited to participate in the expert group meetings and ad hoc meetings preceding the Conferences. At the Bucharest Conference in 1974, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) organized the Population Tribune as a parallel event in which 109 organizations participated. At the Mexico City Conference in 1984, CONGO convened an International Consultation at Geneva sufficiently in advance of the Conference (September 1983) to ensure that the views of non-governmental organizations were properly taken into account in the drafting of the documentation for the Conference; at the Conference itself, 154 non-governmental organizations participated as observers and many of them took the occasion to address the Conference in plenary meeting and to participate in the debates of the Main Committee.

63. For the 1994 meeting, the Secretary-General proposes to invite interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the preparatory activities and in the meeting itself. Some of the organizations will be invited to contribute to the discussions of the expert group meetings in their areas of expertise. The Secretary-General further proposes to explore alternative arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations. It is proposed that these organizations be encouraged to establish a planning committee for their activities in connection with the meeting.

E. Media coverage and information activities

64. Extensive media coverage is important in order to achieve one of the objectives of the 1994 meeting, namely, to maintain and strengthen the level of awareness of population issues on the international agenda. Such coverage will facilitate the focusing of international attention on the issues to be discussed at the meeting.

65. Consistent with the well-established practice in respect of major United Nations conferences, the proposed meeting will benefit substantially from public awareness and support of its objectives through co-ordinated public information activities at the national, regional and international levels. To this end, the following public information activities are planned: a journalist encounter, a major film, a series of briefing papers and a set of posters and information brochures. Those activities will be undertaken jointly by UNFPA and the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in consultation with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

F. Calendar of major activities

66. The Secretary-General proposes that the international meeting on population be scheduled to coincide with World Population Day on 11 July 1994. Although it is still too early to present to the Commission a final detailed calendar of the preparatory activities proposed in the previous sections, a preliminary indication of the order in which those activities and the events leading to the 1994 meeting will take place is given below:

(a) Expert group meetings. These meetings are planned to take place during the biennium 1992-1993;

(b) Regional population conferences. The ESCAP regional population conference is the only such conference that has already been scheduled (July 1992); the other regional conferences are expected to take place before June 1993. Arrangements will be made to ensure that discussions on the 1994 meeting are included in the agenda of the regional meetings;

(c) Meetings of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretary-General proposes the option of scheduling the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission in early 1994, instead of in 1993, as scheduled. The session in 1994 would be held in conjunction with the second session of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretariat would therefore be able to complete the documentation for the second session of the Preparatory Committee some four to five months before the international meeting on population itself. If the Commission met in 1993 as scheduled, with an open-ended session as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 meeting, some 15 months would elapse before the 1994 meeting. Such a long lead time would very likely necessitate an additional session of the Preparatory Committee early in 1994. Thus, rescheduling the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, as proposed, would reduce the cost of the 1994 meeting. The report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session will be before the Economic and Social Council for

final review, at either its organizational session for 1994 or its first regular session that year. The report could be made available for information at the annual sessions of the regional commissions that will take place in the first half of 1994.

V. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

67. On the basis of the above proposals for the preparatory arrangements for the international meeting and for the meeting itself, the financial aspects are indicated below. It should be noted that in defining the parameters for the 1984 International Conference on Population, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1981/87, decided that the need to utilize extrabudgetary resources to the maximum extent possible should be borne in mind, in addition to the fact that the Conference should be conducted with the utmost economy in size, duration and other cost factors. In resolution 1989/91, the Council decided that the 1994 international meeting on population should be conducted effectively and efficiently and that its size, duration and other cost factors should be determined with due regard for economy; it requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to obtain resources for the meeting. Under the circumstances, and bearing in mind the new budgetary procedures, the Secretary-General will make provision for the financing of the preparatory arrangements for the meeting in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1992-1993. At the same time, the Secretary-General will take appropriate steps to seek resources and will inform the General Assembly of the extent to which such resources could be made available.

A. Expert group meetings

68. It is proposed that each expert group consist of a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 15 individual experts, in addition to representatives of the Population Division and other units of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the five regional commissions, selected specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Each expert group will meet from a minimum of four to a maximum of five working days. For the purpose of estimating meeting servicing costs, it is assumed that only the English language will be used for the minimum option and that six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be used for the maximum option; the estimated requirements for documentation are 16,000 words (50 pages) pre-session, 6,000 words (18 pages) in-session and 12,000 words (36 pages) post-session.

69. The Secretary-General is proposing to hold six expert group meetings to cover the six clusters of issues; in this case the estimated cost of the six expert group meetings will be $686,900 at the minimum option or $1,359,500 at the maximum option. In addition, it is estimated that consultancies which the Secretary-General will utilize for the preparation of background papers and other documents for the expert group meetings and the 1994 meeting will cost $75,000. Therefore, the total cost of the expert group meetings will be $761,900 for the minimum option or $1,434,500 for the maximum option. It should be noted that there

is the possibility that one of the expert group meetings will be funded fully or partially from resources outside the budget of the 1994 meeting. The Secretary-General of the meeting has received an offer from the German Foundation for International Development to finance the expert group meeting on population, environment and development.

B. Participation in regional population conferences

70. Travel and subsistence of one substantive staff member of the Secretariat participating in the five meetings is estimated at $21,400.

C. Secretariat support

71. It is estimated that 100 Professional and 50 General Service work-months already included in the regular programme of work funded from the United Nations regular budget will be made available for preparatory work for the 1994 meeting.

72. The estimated staff costs for the preparation of the meeting amount to $849,000. To this amount should be added travel costs for consultations with Governments and international organizations, estimated at $51,600, and general operating expenses, estimated at $45,500. Thus, total additional secretariat support are estimated at $946,100.

D. Information activities

73. The proposed total budget for information activities is $400,000 broken down as follows:

		$US
(a)	Journalist encounter	130 000
(b)	Documentary	150 000
(c)	Series of briefing papers	60 000
(d)	Posters and information brochures	60 000
		400 000

E. Meeting costs

74. The Secretary-General suggests that the meeting be limited in duration to six days and should meet in plenary, with the possibility of having a main committee. Based on the assumption that the meeting will be held in New York, the total estimated cost of providing conference-servicing for the meeting and travel and subsistence of the substantive staff of the five regional commissions is $473,100.

F. Summary

75. The following table summarizes the estimated costs of the 1994 international meeting on population and its preparatory activities at both the minimum and the maximum options discussed in paragraph 68 above:

	Biennium 1992-1993 $		Biennium 1994-1995 $	Total 1992-1995 $	
	Minimum	Maximum		Minimum	Maximum
Expert group meetings	761 900	1 434 500	-	761 900	1 434 500
Participation in regional conferences	21 400	21 400	-	21 400	21 400
Secretariat support	607 600	607 600	338 500	946 100	946 100
Information activities	-	-	400 000	400 000	400 000
Meeting costs	-	-	473 100	473 100	473 100
Total	1 390 900	2 063 500	1 211 600	2 602 500	3 275 100

Notes

1/ Proceedings of the World Population Conference, Rome, 31 August-10 September 1954, vols. I-VI (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.55.XIII.8).

2/ World Population Conference, Belgrade, 30 August-10 September 1965, vol. I, Summary Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.66.XIII.3).

3/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3).

4/ Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8).

5/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference ..., chap. I, para. 108.

6/ World Population Monitoring, 1989 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.12).

7/ Report on the Monitoring of Multilateral Population Assistance (New York, United Nations Population Fund, 1989).

8/ Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action: 1989 Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.11).

Notes (continued)

9/ Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6-9 November 1989 (New York, United Nations Population Fund, 1989).

10/ Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIII.7).

11/ Review and Appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action: 1984 Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XIII.2).

12/ See Report of the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century ....

13/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.